



VOL. XV.

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NO. 36.



Our Home, our Country, and our Brother Man.

HOW LONG WILL AN APPLE TREE LIVE?

It is an idea with many in Maine, that apple trees in this State do not live so long as they do in the southern parts of New England—that they begin to decay at the age of forty or fifty years. We do not know whether this is correct or not. Apple trees that have been neglected, or set out on unsuitable land, will undoubtedly decay in that period of time, if not sooner; but we doubt if (all things being equal as to soil) whether the apple tree is any shorter lived in Maine than in Massachusetts. The oldest apple trees in the interior of Maine, say in Kennebec county, are about fifty years of age, and the most of them are vigorous and healthy. It is true that many trees are decaying, or dead—some have died or are suffering from injuries; others from the improper condition of the soil, the water standing about them or collecting about their roots in consequence of an impervious subsoil—others dying or lingering from the effects of the borer. It was a prevalent opinion during many years of the first settlement of Kennebec and upper parts of Kennebec county, that apple trees would not grow, and this hindered people from planting so soon as they otherwise would, consequently our orchards are not so old as many of the settlements are in which they are placed. The oldest orchards in Maine are probably in York county, and we should be happy to hear from some of our friends in that section of the State on this question.

We believe that the first orchard ever set out in New England was on the Peregrine White place, in Plymouth, in 1638, and one of the trees was living a few years ago, and of course, must be over two hundred years old.

We find an account of an apple tree in the second volume of the American Agriculturist, in a letter from J. W. Stuart to A. B. Allen, Esq., the editor. We copy a part of it for the information of those of our readers who feel a curiosity in such matters. The tree stands on the Charter Oak place in Hartford. "This place was the seat of the Wyllys family, one of much distinction in the history of this State, and remained in their possession till about twenty years ago, when it passed by purchase into the hands of Stephen Bulkley, lately deceased. According to the uniform statement of this family, and that of Mr. Bulkley, to whom it was communicated by the last proprietor of the Wyllys name, from whom he purchased it, the apple tree in question was brought from England by some time before his death, which took place in 1645. This tree, therefore, is probably more than two hundred years old. Nearly two-thirds of its trunk are now gone. The remainder consists of a side or shell, not more than four inches thick in any part. The inside of the tree has, therefore, almost entirely disappeared, but the portion left and the bark on it, are still vigorous. So far as can be judged from its present appearance, the trunk was about twenty inches in diameter. From the top several young and thrifty branches shoot out, giving a present height to the tree of about twenty-five feet. It is of the variety called pearmaine. It generally bears more or less, and this year (1843) bore about half a bushel. The fruit is very choice."

We should be pleased to get the history of the oldest orchards in the several towns in our State, with a view of ascertaining when and by whom our best apples were introduced, and from what places. Also by whom, and when our best native apples and pears were propagated.

#### BUDGING.

Bro. Drew, of the Banner, after quoting the communication of our friend, Maj. Wood, in regard to Budding, says:

"Our old friend seems to be quite unfortunate in the budding business—may it not be that he has become so old and his eyesight so dim that he cannot see to do the work with that nicety which is required in order for the buds to live? We suspect this is the trouble."

We have budded many trees, but have hardly failed in so many as six out of a hundred; and we have practiced all ways; with and without the wood left in the shield, and by shaving it off and showing it down. We prefer the first, however; because the shoulder made to the shield, tends to suit the horizontal incision in the stock, presents a broad surface for the ascending sap to meet with veins through which it may pass into the shield and feed it with life. We prefer to bud in August, and with those axons only, of the present year's growth, on which the wood is well ripened. The practice of cutting off the wood at the chit with a common scapel, we should think a very hazardous and bungling one. The best thing for the purpose is a small gouge, ground thin and sharp.

Maj. Wood says he shall have a few hundred trees for sale this fall; and, as we have given him all the information we can on the subject of budding, let Dr. Holmes be so kind as to ask him to inform us and the public what his mode of treating young nursery trees is? How many times does he transplant the stocks before he considers them suitable for market? And what principle does he adopt in trimming the roots so as to get them in the right shape for transplanting when taken up for sale? Also, how far apart does he allow them to stand in the nursery, for the benefit of sun, air and culture? He would do us service by answering these questions."

#### MISMATCHING OXEN AT CATTLE SHOW.

A farmer in the neighborhood wishes us to suggest to his brother farmers the good opportunity which cattle shows offer for mismatching oxen, as it is called. We should rather call it matching oxen.

In almost every neighborhood are yokes of oxen which are not well matched with each other. Either they are not of equal size, or they are not tempered alike, or they do not travel alike, or they are not colored alike, or some other discrepancy causes a desire to exchange. Now, if farmers would bring on their oxen, whether they wished to exhibit them or not, it would oftentimes be of great benefit to all parties. The hint is worth attending to.

#### NEW MODE OF PRESERVING MEAT.

The following plan of preserving meat, said to be invented by M. Gauss, and communicated to the Academy of Sciences in France, we copy from an exchange. We have no doubt that the mode will act as a preservative, but whether the meat so preserved will be as nutritive and wholesome as if preserved in the common mode, can only be ascertained by a series of comparative experiments. His mode is to inject saline fluids into the arteries of the animal. Four pounds of a saline substance injected into the carotid artery of an ox, will penetrate all the vessels and prevent putrefaction.

It is stated that Mons. G. exhibited legs of mutton preserved two years since by this method, and which were found perfectly sweet. He employs for this purpose muriate of alum. We hardly know what muriate of alum is. The common alum is a sulphate of alumine and potash—do they mean that the substance used is muriate of alumine, (muriatic acid and alumine), or muriate of alumine and potash? Why will not an injection of common salt in solution answer all the purposes?

[For the Maine Farmer.]

#### PLOWING.

Mr. Holmes—The time has come when farmers should begin to plow ground to be tilled the coming season. If I say that ground plowed as early as August, or the first of September, is far better for crops than later, it will not be controverted, nor be any new idea. More brakes are killed by this early plowing than any other time, on account of the action of the sun on the roots. Many times are necessary to plowing well:

1st—A good plow.

2d—A good team, sufficiently strong to draw the plow steady. Your heavy oxen make the best team for breaking hard well. Some men will attach a horse and a pair of oxen to a plow, or two or three pairs of small oxen, making a very unsteady and almost unmanageable team. The consequence is, the team is worked too hard, the ground not well plowed, nor deep enough. I consider a horse on a breaking-up plow, worse than useless, unless the land is perfectly smooth. When obstacles throw the plow from the ground, the horse starts quick, and carries the plow a number of feet before it can enter the ground. Whereas, the heavy ox team plows steady, smooth, and sufficiently deep; it is easier to drive, to hold plow, and for the team. It is a great loss to many farmers, not having team in proportion to the amount of labor to be performed.

3d—A good teamster—one who understands well the action of oxen to perform labor, not fractious, passionate or hasty, but careful, using words as low as common talk, a check-up, &c. Never spur or strike an ox, to make him start quick, for by so doing the plow is frequently thrown from the ground. With these equipments, plowing may be done in good order, and to good effect.

Instead of plowing round a piece of land, year after year, the edges should be back-furrowed; thereby saving high ridges, which are so common in some men's fields. E. New Portland, Aug., 1847.

Note. The suggestions of E. correspond with our ideas, especially in regard to the kind of team. A good, staunch, docile yoke of strong, well-trained oxen, make the best team on a farm that we have ever had, and we have tried jackasses, mules, horses, bulls, and steers. [Ed.]

[For the Maine Farmer.]

#### TO KEEP EGGS.

Dr. Holmes—I have seen a variety of different methods recommended for keeping eggs, as they may be fresh and good through the winter; but on trial we have always failed to have them come out "as good as new."

About two years ago I thought I would pack some in charcoal. I pounded the charcoal, and packed them in the same manner as recommended in omelets, salt, &c. The result was they kept perfectly good, and when used were as fresh and good to all appearance as new laid eggs. We have tried the charcoal two years, with the same result.

H. A. PITTS.

Winthrop, August, 1847.

CHEMICAL ICE. Some of the chemists of England are making a noise about what they call chemical ice, which is made by plunging a tube full of water into another tube containing a freezing mixture of water and certain salts. This may do very well to illustrate certain laws of chemical action, but is an expensive mode of manufacturing ice. Jack Frost would make more ice during one of our January evenings than they could make in forty years.

PEPPERMINT MANUFACTORY. A correspondent of the Syracuse Journal states there is more Peppermint manufactured in Wayne county, in that State, than in all other parts of the United States. The writer states that a company of manufacturers of the oil of the manufacturing establishments in Palmyra, also bound those engaged in the business not to grow the mint or make the oil for a certain number of years; for all which they have paid \$200,000!

#### BUDGING.

Mr. Holmes—Our friend Wood, in his "Queries about Budding" in No. 33 of the Farmer, would seem to merit a reply from some quarter—some brother member of the Pomological Society, even if such should fail to give him the information he desires.

I have not had much experience in budding, never having practiced on other than young and vigorous trees. Last season I had a few hundred trees in their second year, of which I budded some of the larger in August and a few more in September. They nearly all succeeded. This season I had several hundred in their second year, beside the lot now in their third year. They are now all budded. The first I set about the middle of June. A friend wished to see the process performed, and I set buds in eight trees, a few inches from the ground. They all succeeded. I cut off the stocks a few days after, and they have now grown several inches. Our budding has been done this season from the 15th of July to the 26th of August. I delayed a portion of it to get mature buds from choice varieties grafted the present season. The buds have been set at heights varying from a few inches to three feet. The larger portion have been set near the bottom of the present season's growth of wood.

I think we will not lose more than six per cent of the whole. I have never attempted removing the wood from the bud. My method is, first, make the cut in the stock—making the cross cut at the top first—take off a very little of the outer bark above the cut, to make a clean and smooth surface to slide the bud over as it is being inserted. Take the bud by the three-fourths of an inch or more above the bud, taking a little of the wood downward. Hold the bud by the wood you have taken above it. As you raise the corners of the bark, enter the bud a part of the way downward—then cut off the surplus wood and bark above the bud, and slide it to its place with the knife. Never touch with the fingers that part of the bud that is to be united to the stock. I have this season tied with bark, beginning at the bottom and giving it two or three turns or more below the bud and one or two above it. The bud should be well secured in its place; and then, with two or three fair days, there will not be a loss of six per cent. The trees that I budded last September have now grown from three to five feet. C. C. Foxcroft, August 30, 1847.

#### FAMOUS COWS.

Mr. Holmes—I was quite interested, a short time since, with several accounts in the Albany Cultivator of the great quantity of milk and butter produced by very extraordinary cows. And as they show what is attainable in this respect, and would, perhaps, be pleasing to your readers, I have thought proper to send you a few statements for publication, if you think them worthy.

The most extraordinary cow was one owned by William Cramp of Lewes, Sussex, England. From May first, 1805, to April second, 1806, forty-eight weeks and one day, her milk produced 540 lbs. of butter. The next year, from April 19th, the day she calved, to Feb. 27th, 1807, forty-five weeks, she produced 450 lbs. of butter. It is stated that she was sick and under the care of the farrier three weeks. The third year, from April 6th, 1807, the time she calved, to April 4th, 1808, fifty-one weeks and four days, she produced 675 lbs. of butter. The fourth year, from April 23d, 1808, to Feb. 30th, 1809, forty-two weeks and three days, she produced 466 lbs. of butter. The fifth year, from April 3d, 1809, to May 8th, 1810, fifty-seven weeks, she produced 594 lbs. of butter.

There was another in Danvers, Mass., purchased out of a drove and owned by Mr. Oaks. He made from her the first year 180 lbs. of butter. The next year, 1814, he made 300 lbs. In 1815, over 400 lbs. In 1816, 480 lbs. Her milk was of such richness that five quarts of it frequently yielded one pound of butter.

It is stated that one Col. Jaques' cows in three days afforded nine lbs. of butter, at the rate of 31 lbs. per week.

A cow owned by S. Henshaw, Springfield, Mass., produced 17 3/4 lbs. of butter per week, and in one case 21 lbs. of excellent butter. In 4 1/2 days, that is, in four days and one milking, she produced 14 lbs. and 3 oz. of butter at the rate of 22 1/4 lbs. per week.

Mr. Donaldson, of Blithewood, Dutchess Co., N. Y., had a cow that had yielded, when kept on grass only, 38 1/2 quarts of milk per day, and from that given by her in two days, 6 1/4 lbs. of butter were made, being at the rate of 23 3/4 lbs. of butter.

In 1845, P. H. Schenck, Esq., of Matamoras, N. Y., owned a cow that, from the 21st of May to the 10th of June, 21 days, gave 16 1/4 quarts of milk per day. This, in the three weeks, produced 63 1/4 lbs. of butter.

On the 15th of June, from 15 1/2 quarts of milk, 3 1/4 lbs. of butter, ready for the table, were made. A. J. DOWNS.

NOTE. Our correspondent would also confer a favor by sending us the particulars of some of the famous Mercer cows. The cow recently sold by Hon. H. Ingalls of Mercer, was probably as good as any of those named above. We have heard some account of the mother of this cow, in regard to milking properties, and we should like to learn the facts in regard to the breed. Will friend Downs trace them back as far as he can, and let us see if this milking property was accidental or hereditary? [Editor.]

RUST IN POTATOES. The rust prevails very extensively in this State among the potatoes. This is not the rust, though it generally precedes it. The rust stops the growth of the potato; and prevents its ripening. The rust destroys the whole, leaf, stalk and tuber.

#### GET UP BEFORE THE SUN.

Get up before the sun, my lady,  
Get up before the sun!  
Set up before the sun!  
This morning in a feather-bed  
In what should not be done  
Between sunrise and breakfast, lady:  
Rise, breathe the morning air,  
'Twill make you look so bright, my lady,  
'Twill make you look so fair.  
Get up before the sun, my lady—  
Shake off your drowsy slumber  
You lose the greatest luxury  
That life has, if you drowse  
Between sunrise and breakfast, lady:  
Arise, then, do not lose  
The key to health and happiness  
By lying in a snore.  
Get up before the sun, my lady,  
And in the garden hoe,  
Or feed the pigs, or milk the cows,  
Or take the scythe and mow.  
'Twill give you buoyant spirits, lady,  
Give vigor to your frame—  
Then rise before the sun, my lady,  
And these rich blessings claim.  
August, August, 1847.

#### ROCKY MOUNTAIN FLAX.

The following article was recently read before the New-York Farmers' Club and communicated to the Farmer and Mechanic for publication, by Alexander Walsh.

We know of no plant which seems to better deserve an effort for its introduction into the class of cultivated vegetation, than the one above named. The common flax plant is an annual; is exposed to the depletions of many insects; to get the full amount of the crop it is necessary it should be pulled, and yet with all these drawbacks it is a valuable crop, and indispensable for many purposes. If a plant possessing the same valuable qualities as the common flax, yet which would be perennial, and could be cradled or mown at maturity, thus giving an annual succession of crops from the same root, could be discovered and brought into use among us, and particularly in the fertile valleys and prairies of the Western States, the advantages would certainly be very great. Such a plant is the Flax of the Rocky Mountains; and the individual or the society that shall introduce it into cultivation, should it answer present indications, will be considered as benefiting the agriculture of the country essentially. Of the various notices which we have seen of this plant, we select the following, as more particularly describing its appearance, and the extent of its growth in those regions.

Mr. Parker, in his excellent narrative of his journey across the Rocky Mountains, from the Mississippi to the Pacific, says: "Flax is a spontaneous production of this country. In every thing except that it is perennial, it resembles the flax that is cultivated in the United States—the stalk, the boll, the seed, the blue flower, closed in the day time and open in the evening and morning. The Indians use it in making fishing nets. Fields of this flax might be managed by the husbandman in the same manner as meadows for hay. It would need to be mowed like grass; for the roots are too large, and run too deep in the earth, to be pulled as ours; and an advantage that this would have, is, that there would be a saving of plowing and sowing." This was on a branch of Lewis, or Snake River of the Columbia.

In a late journal of a passage across these mountains, by Mr. Oakley, of Illinois, under the date of the 21st of July, 1836, occurs the following:

"Encamped to-night in a beautiful valley, called Bayou Solare, 28 miles from the head of the South Fork of the Platte. It is a level prairie, thirty miles long and three wide, and was covered with a thick growth of flax, which every year springs up spontaneously."

Whether the Rocky Mountain Flax will prove to be as near the common flax as is supposed by Mr. Parker, may be doubted; but that it is unlike and far superior to the two or three kinds of native flax that have been discovered in the United States, would also seem to be clear. A tract of 90 square miles of flax, such as Mr. Oakley describes, would be a sight in any country, and would rival the grass covered prairies of Illinois.

Flax of the kind mentioned above can be seen growing in A. Walsh's garden.

GOOD ADVICE. Mr. Greeley, in one of his interesting letters from the West, gives the following excellent advice to two classes of persons:

"O ye who dwell on the gorges and on the slope of granite hills who are often inclined to murmur at the hardships of your lot in being compelled to do a fortnight's hard labor in wrestling twenty bushels of corn from the acre of rugged and stony soil, and in fertile Illinois less labor produces a hundred bushels—you have not yet learned to thank Heaven as you ought for that hard granite soil—the glorious woods which so readily cover it and the blessed crystal waters which gush from its flinty bosom! If you own a farm there keep it, and by cheerful labor, guided by productive Science, render it each year more fruitful than the last; but if you have no land, and a young family forbids the hope of earning any at the East, strike boldly for the West at once, get hold of eighty or one hundred acres, as well located for health or timber as you can find, and resolve, in spite of all obstacles, to make it the foundation of a competence for yourself and an outfit for your children."

KIND AND PROFITABLE.—A friend who has been much troubled, since the commencement of "fly time," in milking his cow, wishes us to say, that he took revenge upon her the other night, after she had kicked over a pail of milk, by giving her a basting with—not a club, but—a small quantity of fish oil, gently applied with a rag. Since that time the flies seem to avoid her, and she stands quietly and chews her cud while he secures the reward of his kindness. He suggests that in this case, as in all matters of benevolence, others should "go and do likewise."

The same result will follow the use of fish oil upon horses. Those who make any claim to kindness to their animals should try it—not only when the horse is in use, but when in the stable or pasture. [Waterville Mail.]

#### GRAFTING ON THE MOUNTAIN ASH.

Messrs. Editors. In your "Cultivator" of the 31st ult., is an article on the grafting of pears on the mountain ash &c., on which I wish to make a few observations. The grafting on the mountain ash stock has been practiced for the last twenty years, and about six or seven years ago was brought prominently before the public in several of the English papers. The result of every experiment went to prove that the process on the mountain ash would only succeed for several years, but even in that time the produce amply repaid for the labor, and that all that was necessary was to regraft and the produce was renewed. Experiments were also tried upon the common ash, the willow and others, but the thorn was the one that gave the greatest satisfaction, for on it every variety of fruit succeeded. The mountain ash and the thorn are also grafted to a good extent in Nova Scotia with perfect success. The thorn can be seen there with pears, cherries and apples upon the same stock, and the farmers in that province go round and graft all the thorns upon their lots. To what an extent could this plan be carried in the States, for not a single graft need be wasted when stocks can be found in such plenty. In England where stocks are plenty—the quince stock is generally preferred for pears, for this fruit does not succeed so well on its own stock.

The pear delights in deep vegetable matter, and the sides of rivers, or in low well drained situations, for being of vigorous growth it requires much and also regular moisture, (or the fruit falls off) which makes the roots always seek a low medium of soil, and hence become a series of top roots. Now, where the soil is suitable, make a good bed of broken bricks, or stones, three feet thick and covered with one foot of soil, before the root of the tree is placed on it—spread out the roots within six inches of the surface of the ground and then cover in; then mulch, and cover that with a layer of soil—fix one or more stout stakes by the trunk of the tree and fasten, but it will soon hold itself. Always take up pear trees with as much root as possible and trim the extremities of the fibers with a sharp knife. When a large tree does not indicate fruitfulness or has never borne fruit—some drive a very large nail into the trunk about its centre, and another nail in the transverse direction, with perfect success. The formation of fruit spurs indicates weakness in the tree and is caused by arresting the circulation of the sap—thus bending down the branches causes the growing buds to become blossom buds. (A growing bud, is longer and flatter than a blossom bud.) I applied this process last week to a beautiful twelve year old golden pippin apple tree, which had never shown a blossom or blossom bud. Heading down causes laterals to spring forth and then there is no end of pruning.

Pear trees should have the shoots of all kinds, not required for next year's bearing, clean cut away, for the excess of shoots which they produce in profusion, if all retained, even in a shortened state, will surely injure the tree for producing fruitful buds. To keep a tree in heart and fresh—bore an auger hole about one foot from the ground and half way through—fill the hole with sulphur and cream of tartar and plug it up—then whitewash as usual. R. DOLLEN.

Cambridge, Aug. 9th, 1847.

P. S. Have any of your correspondents tried the intense drying of seed wheat instead of steeping? I have tried it and it acts well. No smut—no weevils—and a fortnight gained in ripening, over the steeped, and natural seed. Drying is recommended by many clever Farmers. R. D.

[Boston Cultivator.]

MEASURING HAY. The editors of the Albany Cultivator allow 400 cubic feet to make a ton of hay. This is less than the usual allowance. Six hundred cubic feet have been sold here for a ton—that is, a mow ten by ten rods, and six feet high—equal to 600 cubic, or solid feet. Perhaps this bulk would be necessary to make a ton of red top or clover grass in case no pressure of any kind is applied over it. Clover would lie lighter.

But in broad and deep bays—say 30 feet by 30, and twenty feet in depth, the pressure is immense, and 500 cubic feet would make a full ton. Some estimate that 400 feet will do it but they think the pressure in such a mow is equal to that of the common screws used for pressing hay.

Twenty times thirty equal six hundred, and one foot in depth would at this rate make a ton—600 cubic feet. But if 400 feet are sufficient, then eight inches of depth in such a mow, would amount to a ton. By repeated measurements and weighings we could judge pretty nearly by measure alone. [Ploughman.]

THE LAWRENCE SCIENTIFIC SCHOOL. The following vote was passed by the Corporation of Harvard University, at their meeting on Commencement Day:—

Whereas the Hon. Abbott Lawrence, of Boston, has presented the sum of fifty thousand dollars to the President and Fellows of Harvard College, as an endowment of the Scientific School in this University, and for the foundation of Professorships of Geology and Engineering in the same, it is therefore unanimously

Voted, by the President and Fellows, in token of their gratitude for this munificent donation, and in perpetual commemoration of the same, that the Scientific School be henceforth known and designated as the "Lawrence Scientific School in the University at Cambridge."

We understand that the buildings on Mr. Lawrence's foundation are already in progress of construction. In the mean time, a temporary laboratory has been prepared, and special students in Chemistry will be forthwith received by Professor Hensford. The other departments of the School will not, we understand, go into operation till the opening of the Professorship of Geology and Engineering, which will take place as soon as possible. [Courier.]

#### ON HORTICULTURE AND RURAL TASTE.

Nature has been bountiful with her gifts to our beautiful State, and should not all feel anxious to improve what has been so abundantly bestowed? We often see large farms, with extensive fields under a high state of cultivation, and seemingly every effort made to get as many dollars as possible from every acre of land. This is all right. But when we turn to the house, perhaps we see a newly painted mansion with its green shutters exposed to the burning rays of the sun, without a shade tree or a shrub to give freshness to the scene, or impart loveliness to the spot; and the yard filled with dock, thistles, and other weeds! Can it be that the inmates of such a mansion have no taste for plants and flowers? Do they think the hours thrown away that are devoted to the culture of "nature's loveliest gem?" I do not envy them their feelings.

"I love the flowers, the fair young flowers,  
Whom their dwelling be,  
Though springing on the mountain side,  
Or 'neath the greenwood tree."

There is a power in scenes of rural beauty which affects our social and moral feelings. One may judge, with a good degree of confidence, of the taste and intelligence of a family, by the external appearance of their dwelling. A habitation, however spacious and costly, with nothing ornamental or interesting around it, indicates a want of delicate and kindly sentiment among its inmates, their books are generally few, ill chosen, and seldom read.

When we see a house, however humble, which is apparently as comfortable as its owner has means to make it, with the delicious grape or some other vine climbing up the porch, the yard neat and tidy, we feel assured that this is the abode of quiet and rational enjoyment. A fondness for scenes like this is seldom blended with coarseness of sentiment or rudeness of manners. Why should we devote so much attention to the external ornaments of our house, while we never seem to think of displaying our skill in our door improvements? What is more delightful than the balmy breath of more, rendered doubly grateful by the perfumes of flowers?

How sweet to inhale the fragrance of the opening rose or pink which our own hands have planted and cultivated! Cannot some of those delicate young ladies who seem to fear that a little exercise in the yard or garden will injure their beauty, be induced to try the experiment, and see if they do not both look and feel better? How many there are that spend half of their precious time in reading the "last work," looking after some new fashion, making a few fashionable visits, and then pretend to think that they have performed a vast amount of useful labor! When will the human mind expand enough to see and feel that health, beauty, and usefulness are enhanced by spending a few scraps of time in the culture of those external ornaments of home, that throw around it such an air of contentment, that the attachment which families have for that sacred spot, will cause them to look back with the most endearing recollection, when far away!

But I must stop, I do not deem myself capable of writing for others, but wish to elicit the mind and pen of those competent to instruct in this and every other good work. Much is to be done for many of us, in erasing our erroneous ideas and prejudices in relation to the dignity of labor, in preparing our minds for enjoyment in the works of nature, in inspiring a love for natural beauty everywhere, and for all that is lovely and delightful in the works of our Creator. The inhabitants of the country should rise above the mere drudgery of life, become familiar with nature in her charming aspects, and take pleasure in viewing God's ever varying works.

"There comes from every falling flower  
A lesson for the heart."

What are the richest fruits or the brightest adornments of earth, without the intellectual nature, the moral fruits of the heart and mind? ELIZABETH.

[Ohio Cultivator.]

#### FENCE POSTS.

Some ten years since, I introduced into this place, a kind of fence posts then new here, which are becoming pretty generally in use in this vicinity, for those fences, ancient and modern, economy and durability considered, are believed to be among the best. I have thought that a description of it might be useful to some of the readers of the "Cultivator."

It is formed by taking a stone 2 1/2 feet long, 12 or 15 inches wide, 4 to 6 inches thick. A hole is drilled, 2 inches deep, about 5 inches from the front end, to admit a dowel, and one 20 inches from the first for the foot of a brace. A piece of scantling, 4 or 5 inches square, of a length to correspond with the height of the fence, is placed upon the stone and connected with it by a short dowel, and secured by a brace formed of half-inch round iron. Melted lead or brimstone will secure the end of the brace inserted in the stone, and a two inch wood screw or spike that connected with the post. The brace should form an angle of about 45 degrees. Where a gate is wanted, it is drilled to have one stone sufficiently large for both gate-posts. A small piece of iron resembling a screw-out, should be placed on the dowel, between the end of the post and the stone, that the end of the post may be kept dry. The posts being thus kept from the ground, and well painted, their durability will be apparent to all. Another advantage is, especially on clay soils, the fence will keep its position much better than where posts are placed in the ground. If the stone are well levelled and bedded in the first place, the fence will remain perfectly straight year after year, —the frost not affecting them in the least, except a few days in the spring when the ground is thawing. Should a close board fence be wanted, it would be best, perhaps, to have the stone somewhat larger, and the braces a little longer; but for ordinary open fences, those above described will be found sufficiently large. GEO. HAPGOOD.

Warren, Ohio. [Albany Cultivator.]

#### IMPROVEMENT IN THE STEERING OF VESSELS.

The attention of ship-owners and ship-builders is invited to an important improvement in the manner of constructing the apparatus for the steering of vessels—the discovery of Mr. Edward Rowe, of this town. This improvement consists, first, in the power given to the barrel of the wheel, which is compensating,—operating upon the principle of the fusee of a timepiece,—and is so graduated as to pay off and wind up the rope or chain, producing an equal tension of the wheel-rope at all times, thus insuring a prompt action of the tiller. The smallest motion of the wheel will instantly produce a corresponding motion of the tiller, and prevent those sudden jerks by which the man at the wheel is so often thrown and injured. It is the design of the discoverer to adapt this power of the barrel to the steering wheels already in use.

A second improvement consists in the combination of a system of progressive toggle-joint levers with the compensating barrel, by which arrangement the power acting on the levers is increased as the resistance increases; and, as the force of the sea on the rudder is met by the straightening of one of the pairs of jointed levers, it is obvious that the power will increase in the ratio of the increase of the resistance.

The whole improvement is a combination of the toggle-joint lever with the common steering wheel (improved barrel), in such a manner that, as the helm is put up or down, the jointed levers straighten, and thus increase the power. It is well known that the power of the jointed lever, in its present improved manner of application, is very great. The discoverer informs us that arrangements have been made, by which either the wheel, or the wheel and lever, can be furnished at short notice. The tiller may be used forward or abaft the rudder, and the wheel located in any part of the vessel desired. The improvement is patented. [Augusta Age.]

MAINE DELICACIES. The Journal mentions as a matter of astonishment, that on board of whale ships "very masticable mince pies, salt junk chopped fine, and molasses, or sweetened vinegar well stirred together." Add to these, however, the appetite which has grown out of years of toil upon the "shoreless deep," and it may well be conceived that even this homely combination forms a most acceptable dish. But this is not the only delicacy attainable by the hardy hunters of Leviathan. The dough-nuts or "cookies" that are shortened with pure sperm oil, and cooked in the try-pots of boiling water, are far more delicious than those which grandmother Grizzlewax manufactures and fries by the aid of swine's lard. There are, furthermore, divers parts of the whale itself, especially if it be a "calf," which these musical epicures deem most excellent eating—and so in fact they actually are. Certain portions of the lean meat, immediately under the blubber, when properly dressed, greatly exceed in flavor, and in wholesome effect upon the human stomach, the flesh of any of these wild animals which gourmands commonly call game. Parts of the fluke (or tail) and fins, also furnish a most palatable and healthful meal; and the "scraps," or slices of blubber from a small whale, out of which the oil has been melted, are so sweet and crisp, that they are eaten with great avidity, even by the dwellers upon land, of all ages and sexes, whenever a fresh young humback has been brought to shore. Store no longer then in wonder, at the singular diet upon which the whaler chooses to feed. No dyspepsia follows such a smooth diet. He always comes home with a smooth skin, and a round, solid corporation. [Star.]

BLOODY MURDER.—Hon. H. L. Ellsworth, now of Lafayette, Ind., informs us that the following recipe has proved a preventive of this disease in several sections, where it has prevailed to a great extent.—Take two pint wood ashes and one pint clay, and knead them into lumps with salt and water. Lay the lumps where the cattle can lick them whenever they desire to do so. [Albany Cult.]

SUBSOIL PLOWING.—H. N. Gillet, in the Ohio Cultivator, in speaking of the importance of subsoiling, notices the hard stratum of earth, a few inches below the surface, "almost impervious to water, and impenetrable to the roots of plants, occasioned by the pressure of the bottom of the











